

## Dr. Martin's Original Writings

### Commentary for October 16, 2017 — Someone Wants to Access Them

Below is a question from a reader and my answer. I edited and added material to my original response for this Commentary.

**Question:** Dear David,

Do you know where I might be able to access the original (i.e. un-altered) writings of Ernest Martin?

Thank you. Regards, M.

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**Answer:** M.,

Dr. Martin forcefully told his wife, Ramona, to turn over the editorial responsibility of his writings, tapes, CDs, and the ASK website to me in the event of his death. He did so one last time after his heart attack in December 2001. He died in January 2002. She complied.

Dr. Martin's earlier or "original" writings were largely rejected by him as he grew in grace and in knowledge. He trashed dozens of copies of his earlier editions of books and articles, because he learned more accurate information than he previously knew (or thought he knew) and replaced it with better biblical knowledge and understanding.

He published the first edition of his Star of Bethlehem research in the late 1970s. He came out with two later editions. All the early editions had either incomplete or obsolete information in light of later research. That is why he came out with later editions.

The location of Golgotha, the site of Christ's crucifixion, being on the Mount of Olives was pointed out by a friend, but Dr. Martin's years of research fully documented the location of the crucifixion somewhere on that eastern ridge. His first edition appeared in 1989. He made corrections provided by readers and scholars, and found new evidence resulting in the expanded 1996 second edition, [\*Secrets of Golgotha: The Forgotten History of Jesus' Crucifixion\*](#).

Until 1995, he believed the Temple was on the Haram esh-Sharif. Detailed biblical and historical research proved that his own understanding (and everyone else's) was wrong and that a Gihon Spring location for the Temple was the truth. The so-called Temple Mount was actually the remains of Fortress Antonia. His prior published information about the Jerusalem Temples was all "junk" when he published [\*The Temples That Jerusalem Forgot\*](#). Do you think I should continue publishing old Temple information as well as his newer findings? That would spread chaos and confusion.

The biblical teaching of universal salvation came to be understood by Dr. Martin in the late 1960s independent of other authors such as A.E. Knoch and other Concordant Publishing Concern writers, although he did consult with them. Dr. Martin published his own under-

standing of that biblical truth. This research was not in his writings while he was with the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). When he left in the 1970s, he began teaching the truth of universal salvation in the Scriptures, as he understood it.

Dr. Martin wrote a series of articles for the WCG in the 1960s about Simon Magus, using historical sources from the 1950s and before. Much research has been published since that time as reflected in his 1993 book, [The People That History Forgot](#). It is about the development of heresy in the Christian *ekklesia*. Should his old information continue to be published? Why?

Dr. Martin's original research on the design and development of the Holy Scriptures was the subject of his doctoral dissertation in the 1960s. I have a copy. The latest 1994 edition of [Restoring the Original Bible](#) is an expanded and more complete presentation than his original doctoral dissertation. Again, why read the older and dated material?

Dr. Martin finalized his understanding of biblical doctrine with his latest 2001 edition of [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#). In that book he presents his understanding of the complete Gospel and delineates the Old Covenant, the New Covenant, and what most people do not know ... the Mystery given in 63 AD. Dr. Martin knew and taught about the Mystery since the late 1970s, but *Essentials* is a complete exposition of his most mature thoughts on the subject of God, Christ, mankind, salvation, and our role as children of God.

Dr. Martin never wrote a book on prophecy because his understanding changed too often to "lock up" his conclusions in book form, but he wrote articles that changed considerably over the years. He pulled some entirely because he thought them outdated. His understanding of the Book of Daniel during his years with the WCG and as Director of the Foundation for Biblical Research, advanced greatly before his death in January 2002.

In the 1990s, he believed Christ might return around 2028 or so. He realized before his death that a 2028 time for Christ's return was no longer possible. In the article he was working on at the time of his death, Dr. Martin came to understand that Christ would not return until the end of the 21st century. The title is "[The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy](#)."<sup>1</sup>

Much needs to happen prophetically before Christ returns. Great historical events must occur that take decades of preparation, precluding a timeframe around 2028. The Kingdom of the North and the Kingdom of the South have at least one generation of existence, probably more. Several wars will be waged, treaties signed, borders adjusted, new weapons acquired, new armies trained and deployed, and new massive battles fought.

For example, there are at least two Kings of the North, the second one will die and become the antichrist. Can you identify the first King of the North? No, you cannot. That kingdom has not arisen yet for anyone to say, "*See, obviously that man fulfills the prophecies of the king*

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<sup>1</sup> The article was sufficiently developed that I published it in December 2002, although I dated his writing of it as January 2002. I agree with Dr. Martin's last understanding of the later timeframe both for his reasons and for my own. A 2028 return of Christ is only 11 years away from my writing this Commentary. In a 2028 scenario, the 7 years of the tribulation and God's wrath would supposedly begin four years from today, October 16, 2017.

of the North" (or the prophecies of the antichrist).

There are also two Kings of the South, and a daughter marries a King of the North, they have a son and he grows to adulthood. Can you identify the first King of the South? No, you cannot. That kingdom has not yet arisen or even begun to consolidate its power. The Kingdom of the South accumulates great wealth. Egypt, a central component of the Kingdom of the South, is one of the poorest nations on earth at present. It takes time to accumulate wealth.

Babylon must be rebuilt and become a major financial center.<sup>2</sup> That Babylon is different from "mystery Babylon." Can you identify either one at this time? Has a rebuilt Babylon arisen? No. Is the glory of a future Babylon on the horizon? Not that I can see. Such an assembly of wealth and power takes time, probably decades: for the city to be built, wealth to be centralized in one location, and for great financial control to be exercised around the world.

A large portion of the population of Israel, perhaps the majority, must convert and accept Christ as their Messiah (to a New Covenant variety of Christianity) and they will be taught, accept, and be educated to the truths of the New Testament. That has not happened yet. It will take decades, although this process has begun and is growing in Israel today.

The Messianic Jews (Israelites) will then fulfill the responsibility to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the world.<sup>3</sup> It will take time for them to accomplish it, and even longer for the world to receive and accept the Gospel.<sup>4</sup> Once again, the Gospel will be preached to all the world. This time much of the world will accept it, only then will the antichrist (a King of the North) emerge and pervert the truth — not before. In fact, God Himself will cause the people of the world to willingly believe a lie and rebel against Him. All these events take time.

The ten nations of Psalm 83 will become prosperous and cooperate with Israel. The nations of Psalm 83 have only recently been "discovered" by prophetic writers and speakers. Of course,

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<sup>2</sup> See Dr. Martin's updated 1975 article, "[The Rebirth of Babylon](#)," and a 1925 article by F.E. Marsh, "[Will Babylon Be Rebuilt?](#)" Both come to the same conclusion from different avenues of analysis.

<sup>3</sup> I wrote in my December 2010 Commentary, "[An Unfortunate Quote](#)":

**"The Scriptures do not discriminate between peoples on a spiritual level, all are from Adam (Acts 17:24–27). ... Israel is special only because they have been chosen; Israel was not chosen because they were special. While all come from Adam, all people and nations have particular characteristics, some good, some bad. National or racial characteristics do not indicate moral superiority of one people over another.**

**Israel was chosen by God to perform two major tasks in history: (1) to preserve the Word of God (Romans 3:1–2), and (2) to teach the Gentiles about God (Zechariah 8:13–23). Israel is not performing the second task — yet. In the future we shall see if they are performing the first task. ..."**

Once God removes their blindness (Romans 9:18, 2 Corinthians 3:14–16). One purpose of Israel being separated from the nations was to teach the Gentiles about God,

<sup>4</sup> The world's acceptance of Christ as Savior will be superficial and quickly rejected. Even Muslims will accept Christ as Savior and Islam will largely dissolve. Most of those converts will quickly apostatize.

By the way, the WCG and all its break-off groups have not accomplished that task yet. They cannot finish the job because they are mostly Gentiles. The people of the United States, Great Britain, France, etc., are not the 10 tribes of Israel. Has ANY British-Israel prophecy ever come to pass?

they never refer to Dr. Martin's seminal April 2001 article, "[The Prophesied State of Palestine](#)." In 1974, Dr. Martin first wrote that the Bible predicted the Palestinian people would become an independent country. The 2001 article is an update of that original work. This process has begun toward a reconciliation of Palestinians and Jews, but it is moving slowly.

Israel itself must become wealthy, oil must be exploited (as Dr. Martin predicted in his 1981 article, "[Oil Soon to be Discovered in Israel](#)"). It takes time for the wealth of Israel to expand to the 10 nations. Great prosperity must occur in Israel to provide the means to preach the Gospel to 7 billion people in the world about the risen Christ before He returns. They will fulfill the original commission God gave to His people.

The next Temple? It took 40 years to build the first one. Personally, I am still waiting (after 40 years of rumors) to see any evidence that it is "prefabricated" somewhere in Israel and can be "quickly" constructed. (No, the sanctuary will not be a Tabernacle.) "[The Elijah to Come](#)" and a Moses-like individual (together they are the two witnesses) will lead in the construction of the Temple. They have not yet come on the scene. They will be involved in the construction of the Temple as the Books of Zechariah and Revelation tell us.

We are not yet in the End Time. Like the finale of a fireworks display, the beginning of the End Time will be obvious. We are several decades from that time. Remember, the last 7 years will begin a time of cataclysms. At the end, the Day of the Lord occurs.

My task as archivist (if you will), and editor of Dr. Martin's material is to update his older writings, extract relevant useful information from his older books, articles, and tapes in light of his later research. Truly, Dr. Martin forgot more about the Bible than I and many other students of Scripture ever knew. Dr. Martin probably would not do what I do. He would have withdrawn the old material from public view and rewritten from scratch his latest research. That was his process.

On my part I will not publish ANY of his older material unless I work through it, update the sources, and make sure it fits with his latest biblical and historical understandings that he held to before his death. If I disagree with his evidence because of new information I learned, I will say so. In 15 years of editing (and writing my own material), no one has accused me of misrepresenting Dr. Martin's latest biblical understandings. I try to keep my work clearly marked from his work. Yes, I have the right to change his words for clarity, but I do not change the message he wrote. I believe I have been faithful to that goal.

So no, M., I will not help you access the so-called "original" writings of Ernest Martin — whatever you think they were. For you to read his old material and compare it with the latest updated material will be extremely time consuming on your part, and a waste of time.

The ASK website exists to help you read and understand the Scriptures on your own. I try to present the best information that explains the Bible, most of it from Dr. Martin's research. I hope this information is useful to you.

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